

Washington Sailing Marina is located South of Reagan National Airport on the West bank of the Potomac River. The marina leases its land from the National Park Service (NPS) and overlooks the Washington D.C. skyline. 680 wet-slips and dry-dock slips are available for lease, and boats and bikes are available for rental, and the facility has a restaurant, *The Potowmack Landing*. The marina does little vessel maintenance or repair, and no fueling takes place onsite.



Washington Sailing Marina was certified as a Virginia Clean Marina on June 13, 2003. Since pledging to work toward becoming a Clean Marina, Washington Sailing Marina has made great strides in developing and implementing a detailed stormwater management pollution prevention plan. They have conducted a complete hazardous material inventory and evaluated the potential impacts to the Potomac River, as well as identified the potential contaminants from storm water. They have developed a detailed set of control and best management practices (BMPs) for minimizing the impacts of pollution due to storm water runoff. A set of daily, monthly, and annual inspections have been developed along with a method of record keeping and reporting. These efforts to develop a stormwater management pollution prevention plan greatly reduce the amount of pollution and contaminants flowing into the Potomac from the marina.

The marina has encouraged use of BMPs with staff and patrons. The staff engages in ongoing training at monthly meetings and has prepared procedures for situations such as approaching polluters and oil spills. They are trained to use the "Panic File" which pinpoints all of the potential hazards for the facility. The emergency response plan is reviewed yearly with the Fire Department, and they have a Hazard Communication plan on file with NPS. The marina has worked to publicize environmentally friendly boating among their patrons by highlighting their involvement in the Clean Marina Program in *The Alexandria Gazette* and publishing a newsletter with information about procedures for limiting pollution and potential harms. The marina has incorporated BMPs into lease contracts and has held workshops to demonstrate procedures. Boaters are not allowed to discharge at the dock or change oil on the premises, and signs are posted to indicate proper use of wash pads and sewage pumpouts.

Other environmentally-friendly techniques used by the Washington Sailing Marina are the following:

- Using composite decking on new docks and using steel pilings at the crane dock
- Making available 35 trash cans emptied daily and a dumpster emptied weekly
- Reducing volume of gray water by maintaining 24 hour/day restrooms
- Maintaining large tracts of grass buffer including grass, trees, and shrubs
- Recycling used printer paper into notepads
- Recycling cardboard, glass, aluminum and plastic
- Using a vacuum sander on boat hulls
- Regulating contractors doing work onsite
- Prohibiting fish cleaning on the premises
- Maintaining an accessible pumpout system





Washington Sailing Marina has made considerable strides in implementing these pollution prevention techniques and BMP's in order to minimize its environmental impacts.

Through agreement with the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP), Washington Sailing Marina has also been recognized as an "Environmental Enterprise" or E2 facility. VEEP is the Virginia DEQ's program to encourage the development of Environmental Management Systems and pollution prevention as tools for achieving long-term improvements in environmental performance. As such, it is hoped that Washington Sailing Marina will not only maintain its status as a Clean Marina, but will continuously improve upon its current activities. For more information on VEEP, see <http://www.deq.state.va.us/veep>.



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The Virginia Clean Marina Program is a voluntary partnership to reduce nonpoint source pollution to Virginia's Coastal waters by helping marinas and boaters become more environmentally responsible. <http://www.deq.state.va.us/vacleanmarina>. For more information, please contact Harrison Bresee by email at [hpbihi@vims.edu](mailto:hpbihi@vims.edu) or by phone (804) 684-7768.

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The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA or any of its subagencies or DEQ.

